



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2008 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811

General Deer Hunting Information For **ZONE X-6a** **and** **Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-11** (Includes Additional Hunts M-8 and A-26)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-6a located in portions of Lassen and Plumas counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-11; Zone X-6a Archery Hunt), Zone X-6a general season and any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

Northern Region Office (Region 1), 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001 (530-225-2300) encompassing Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties.

North Central Region Office (Region 2), 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900) encompassing Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, northeastern Sacramento, eastern San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, northern Yolo and Yuba counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.asp>

The 2008 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone X-6a (general season tag), Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-11 (archery season only tag), and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet.

To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-6a, hunters must possess an A-11 hunt tag (Zone X-6a Archery Hunt). This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed archery season and **may not** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even if using archery equipment.

To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone X-6a, a hunter must possess a Zone X-6a tag. This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed general season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-11 archery season, even if using archery equipment.

This zone is a popular deer hunting area with lower tag quotas. Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-6a are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for Zone X-6a, Hunt A-11 and any additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To hunt in this area, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit hunt

applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the 2008 Hunting Digest, available on-line at:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone X-6a contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone X-6a are administered by the Lassen and Plumas National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-2151)
Plumas National Forest, P.O. Box 11500, 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971-6025 (530-283-2050)

BLM Offices:

Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-0456)

In Zone X-6a and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the Lassen and Plumas National Forest maps. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. BLM surface management maps for Zone X-6a include the Lake Almanor, Portola, and Susanville maps. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Although there is a lot of private land in Zone X-6a, there are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. Primary roadways in Zone X-6a are State Highway 395 (northeastern X-6a), State Highway 89 (western X-6a), State Highway 36 (northwestern X-6a), and State Highway 70 (southern X-6a). Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

Road closures exist in the Wildcat Ridge, Diamond Mountain and Red Rock areas. Contact the Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District (530-283-0555) for more specific information regarding these closures.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone X-6a covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of X-6a. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone X-6a. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone X-6a is at low density and considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production. Bitterbrush winter ranges in the Bass Hill area have been subjected to repeated wildfires and rural housing development preventing bitterbrush re-establishment and ultimately the decline in deer herds.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone X-6a is primarily the Columbian black-tailed deer however there are also Rocky Mountain mule deer in the zone. Most deer in Zone X-6a are considered migratory. The deer in this area generally move to higher elevations west of the Sierra Crest in late spring and will remain until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line to Honey Lake Valley south of Susanville. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-6a ranging from low sage, sagebrush, bitterbrush, montane chaparral, aspen, juniper, hardwood and conifer to subalpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and non-selective timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Typically, lower densities of deer

are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent forest stands or forest plantations.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush. Early in the season, the best hunting areas are Wildcat Ridge, Diamond Mountain, Red Rock, Hamilton Mountain, and the area around Antelope Lake. Deer can be found throughout the summer range, so don't just concentrate on these sites. Later in the season good hunting areas include Stoney Ridge and Fitch Canyon. Other areas which have historically been popular and productive in Zone X-6a include: Bass Hill, Grizzly Ridge, Kettle Rock, Lone Springs Mountain and Walker Mines area.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2008, two additional hunt opportunities exist in Zone X-6a: 1) Hunt M-8 (Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt); and 2) Hunt A-26 (Bass Hill Archery Buck Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deermaps.html>

2008 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(b) X-Zone Hunts.

(8) Zone X-6a.

(A) Area: In those portions of Lassen and Plumas counties within a line beginning at the junction of Highway 147 and Highway 36 near Westwood; east on Highway 36 to Conservation Center Road at Susanville (County Road A-27); east on Conservation Center Road to Highway 395 at the town of Litchfield; east on Highway 395 to the Wendel-Pyramid Lake Road (County Road 320); east on the Wendel-Pyramid Lake Road to the Nevada-California state line; south on the Nevada-California state line to the UP-WP railroad line near Herlong; west on the UP-WP railroad line to the Herlong Access Road (County Road A-25) at Herlong; west on the Herlong Access Road to Highway 395; north on Highway 395 to County Road 336 at Milford; southwest on County Road 336 to U.S. Forest Service Road 26N16 near the Plumas-Lassen county line; west on Forest Service Road 26N16 to Forest Service Road 28N03 at Doyle Crossing; west on Forest Services Road 28N03 to Forest Service Road 29N43 near Antelope Lake; south on Forest Service Road 29N43 to County Road 111 at Flournoy Bridge; south on County Road 111 to Forest Service Road 24N08; south on Forest Service Road 24N08 to County Road 112 at Lake Davis; south on County Road 112 to Highway 70; west on Highway 70 to the Highway 89 junction at Blairsden; west on Highway 89/70 to the Greenville Y west of Quincy; northwest on Highway 89 to Highway 147 at Canyon Dam; north on Highway 147 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone X-6a shall open on the first Saturday in October and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 325.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(21) M-8 (Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of Lassen County within the area described as Zone X-6a (see subsection 360(b)(8)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt M-8 (Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck) shall open on the fourth Saturday in October and extend for 9 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 20.

(E) Special Conditions: Only muzzleloading rifles as specified in Section 353 may be used.

(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(9) A-11 (Zone X-6a Archery Hunt).

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(8)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-11 (Zone X-6a Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 55.

(23) A-26 (Bass Hill Archery Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of Lassen County within the area described as Zone X-6a (see subsection 360(b)(8)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for hunt A-26 (Bass Hill Archery Buck Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in November and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 30.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****